

## Entrance Surrounds and Doors



District door surrounds

The entrance surround and door often exhibits the fullest ornamental development of a style, and is a major character-defining feature of a building. The details of the entrance, which may include a post and lintel surround, transom, sidelights, and entablature or hood, make a strong stylistic statement.

Pedimented and/or fan lit entrances and six-panel doors are typical of the Colonial and Federal homes in the District. Greek Revival entrances are composed of a heavy post and lintel frame, the side posts or pilasters complete with bases and capitals, a flat transom and sidelights. Italianate entrances are usually more ornate than earlier styles, and may be protected by a porch or bracketed hood. Every effort should be made to maintain original details of the entrance.

### Recommendations

- Preserve and maintain any historic and entrance surround and door features. If elements must be replaced due to deterioration, replace them in-kind, matching materials, details, and finish as closely as possible to the original.

- If possible, reuse existing original hardware and locks.
- If an entrance will no longer be used, removing the door and filling in the opening is not recommended. The door should remain in place and be secured. Any alteration should be reversible so that a doorway can be used in the future.
- In repairing sidelights the type, style and size of the glass should match original glass. The muntin profile should match that of the original. Avoid using stained or leaded glass in transoms, sidelights, or door lights unless physical, photographic, or written evidence shows that these materials were used historically. Any decorative glass should be installed so that it can be removed at a later date without destroying the original fabric of the building.
- If storm doors are installed, they should be of simple design, constructed of wood, and have a full-height glass section that permits full view of the main door. Decorative features such as stick-on strap hinges, scalloped edges, and crossed panels are not recommended.

- The style of replacement doors should be compatible with the style of the building. Heavily ornamented doors were unusual in the District, and the introduction of this type of door creates a false sense of history.

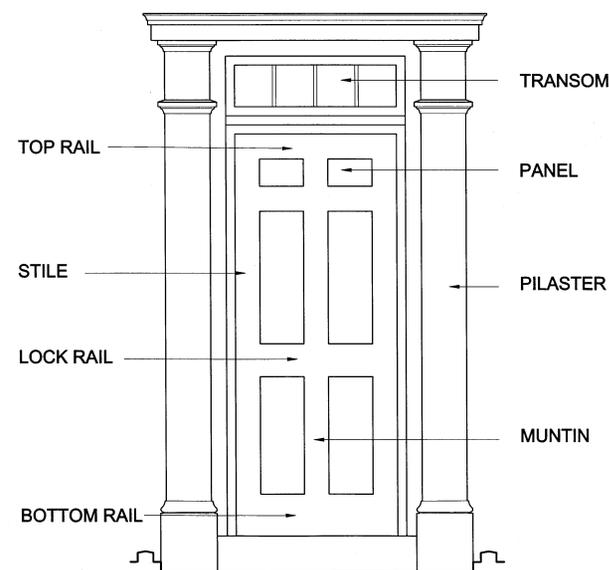


Illustration identifying parts of door. Six-panel door with four-light transom shown.